

- Montana ranks high in alcohol and substance abuse when compared to other states in the U.S.

Strategic Directions

Due to the diversity of the State, the Steering Committee considers the most important direction to focus resources and attentions is promoting and working towards implementation of programs specific to communities and/or statewide.

Prevention

- Increase awareness of youth suicide prevention
- Develop community provider networks
- Conduct gatekeeper training
- Provide screening programs

Intervention

- Increase access to mental health and substance abuse services including smoking cessation programs
- Develop and implement clinical screening programs and standard screening tools with appropriate referral and follow-up
- Develop a statewide crisis response system

Postvention

- Reduce access to lethal means with affected circles of suicide survivors
- Improve services for survivors
- Provide support and resources to families of persons at high risk or who have attempted

Coordination

- Improve communication and community linkages with mental health and substance abuse service systems serving youth and young adults
- Designate a state lead
- Demonstrate collaboration

Assuring Support for the Plan

Key personnel, organizations and stakeholders were contacted for their review and comment throughout the process. The steering committee members were encouraged to have their organizations and constituents review and comment on the plan after it was posted on the web site (<http://www.montanasuicide.org>).

The Montana State Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan was presented to the Montana Public Health Association (MPHA) to keep them apprised of the ongoing efforts to reduce suicide in Montana.